

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11357

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN BINV UN ECOSOC, IT
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: ROME 9896

1. DURING COURSE OF ONE-DAY VISIT TO ROME JULY 11, MAIN PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS OF FAO AND RELATED AGENCIES (SEPTTEL), AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND WELLS CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI, ONLY SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF INTEREST DURING HALF-HOUR CONVERSATION WAS ILLICIT PAYMENTS, WHICH AMBASSADOR YOUNG RAISED, REFERRING IN PARTICULAR TO UNGA RESOLUTION AND COMPLEXITY/SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE. ANDREOTTI MADE VERY POSITIVE RESPONSE.

2. ANDREOTTI NOTED THAT ISSUE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED NOT ONLY IN UN BUT ALSO AT LONDON SUMMIT AND IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. HE ASSERTED THAT NEED FOR AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS EXISTS. IT IS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM, HE SAID, BUT ONE ON WHICH ALL COUNTRIES MUST GIVE
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MAXIMUM SUPPORT. THERE IS CONCERN THAT ONLY SOME COUNTRIES WILL AGREE TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT, THUS GIVING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE TO THOSE WHO DO NOT. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IF MAJOR COUNTRIES AGREE, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT. ITALY, HE SAID, IS EXTREMELY INTERESTED BECAUSE LOCKHEED SCANDAL CAUSED GREAT DAMAGE. IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WERE CONCLUDED, IT WOULD REPRESENT "A REVOLUTION" IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LIFE. IN CONCLUSION,

ANDREOTTI SAID THAT IF MINISTRIES OF FINANCE AND TAX AUTHORITIES WORK WELL, THIS COULD SERVE TO IMPROVE SITUATION.

3. ON JULY 12 EDMIN REPORTED ABOVE DISCUSSION TO GIOVANNI MIGLIUOLO, SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ILLICITY PAYMENTS ISSUE. MIGLIUOLO REMARKED THAT ANDREOTTI'S STATEMENTS CLOSELY PARALLELED FOREIGN MINISTRY BRIEFING PAPER PREPARED FOR LONDON SUMMIT. WHEN QUERIED WHY GOI, IN VIEW OF STRONG SUPPORT GIVEN IN PRINCIPLE TO ILLICIT PAYMENTS AGREEMENT, CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ONLY LUKEWARM SUPPORT TO US IN ECOSOC DISCUSSIONS, MIGLIUOLO REPEATED OFT-STATED ASSERTION THAT NECESSARY CONSENSUS DOES NOT YET EXIST, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF DISINTEREST ON PART OF LDC'S. GARDNER

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